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Title: Problems due to soil erosion in Assam.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): The flood and erosion has been a major problem of Assam since 1950. During the last almost six decades, this problem has devastated the rural economy of Assam in a bigger way. As a result, Assam has not been able to come up to a certain standard of all-round development, particularly in the countryside. The flood and erosion has created a massive damage to its topography as well as the communication system. This perennial problem is also largely affecting the States like Bihar, West Bengal, U.P., etc.

* Not recorded

So, considering the gravity of the problem, the people of Assam have always been requesting the Central Government to declare it as a national problem. The Central Government must come forward to assist the respective State Governments with proper plan and programmes with adequate Budgetary support to find our a permanent solution to it.

In my State of Assam, the erosion problem is still continuously causing the destruction of habitation, paddy field and vegetable gardens. As a matter of fact, only in Rohmoria, Dibrugarh District, more than 1,000 families have lost their habitation since last ten years. The hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Union Minister, Shri Saifuddin Soz also visited Rohmoria and had a talk with the affected people and promised them permanent protection measures to protect Rohmoria, but unfortunately nothing visible has come out so far.

Likewise in Mazuli, Jorhat District, Matmora, Lakhimpur District, and Gakhirkhaitee, Koliabor, Nogaon District, large number of families have become the victims of erosion of River Brahmaputra. ...(*Interruptions*) This is a very sensitive issue.

So, I strongly urge upon the Central Government through you to take the following steps immediately:-

1. To immediately declare the financial package for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected families of Rohmoria and other places of Assam in similar fashion as it was done in the case of tsunami disaster.

2. To immediately take practical concrete action plan, short and long, to protect Rohmoria only protect the 160-year old Dibrugarh town, Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh University, ongoing constructions of Assam Gas Cracker project, Bogibill Bridge, and heavy installation of oil and natural gases and large number of tea gardens.

The immediate protection measures are also required to be taken to protect the world's largest River Island, Mazuli, the Centre of Art and Culture of Assam, Gakhirkhaitee to protect the famous Bhumuraguri bridge at Koliabor, Matmora to protect the large number of various ethnic groups of Assam in Dhokuakhana, Lakimpur District. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing more will go on record except Shri M. Shivanna's remarks.

*(Interruptions) â€¦ **

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, I would like to associate with what Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has stated just now....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

* Not recorded